

Appl. No. : 09/846,777
Filed : May 1, 2001

REMARKS

As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 20-68 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment is found in the specification and claims as filed. Namely, support for this amendment is found in original Claim 1, as filed.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,146,747 to Wang et al. ("Wang et al."). "A rejection for anticipation under section 102 requires that each and every limitation of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference." *See, e.g., In re Paulsen*, 31 U.S.P.Q.2d 1671 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Wang et al. does not disclose every element of Applicant's pending claims, and therefore cannot be considered as an anticipating reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicant has amended the sole pending independent claim, Claim 1, to recite a membrane mesh "wherein the pores of at least the first surface and the second surface have an average pore diameter greater than 10 μ m." Wang et al. does not disclose a membrane mesh with first and second surface pores having an average pore diameter of greater than 10 μ m. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance and requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise improve the capacity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art. In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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